

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 EUR-12 SY-05 MCT-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /100 W

-----093715 121652Z /46

R 111550Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1702

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3918

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, SF

SUBJECT: PHATUDI MAY JOIN BLACK ALLIANCE

1. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT LEBOWA HOMELAND LEADER DR. CEDRIC PHATUDI IS CONSIDERING ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK ALLIANCE (SABA) IN DURBAN NEXT MONTH WHERE IT WILL DISCUSS ITS STATED OBJECTIVE OF FORMING AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS. SABA IS CURRENTLY MADE UP OF CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI'S INKATHA MOVEMENT, THE COLORED LABOR PARTY, THE INDIAN REFORM PARTY, KENNETH MOPELI'S QWA QWA RULING PARTY AND THE DISKEI OPPOSITION PARTY. PHATUDI SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT HE WOULD ATTEND THE MEETING IF HE COULD BE CONVINCED THAT THE ALLIANCE IS NOT A "SECTIONALIST" ORGANIZATION BUT ONE THAT WOULD INCLUDE ALL RACES.

2. COMMENT: DR. PHATUDI HAS A POTENTIAL FOLLOWING OF NEARLY TWO MILLION NORTHERN SOTHO AND NDEBELE PEOPLE. HIS DECISION TO AFFILIATE WITH SABA WOULD BE A MAJOR BOOST TO THAT ORGANIZATION'S EFFORTS TO UNITE MODERATE AFRICAN, COLORED AND INDIAN OPINION IN A CAMPAIGN OF
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NON-VIOLENT OPPOSITION TO THE SAG FOCUSED ON THE STRUCTURING OF AN ALTERNATIVE CONSTITUTION FOR SOUTH AFRICA. PHATUDI'S REFERENCE TO SABA AS A POTENTIALLY "SECTIONALIST" ORGANIZATION PROBABLY REFLECTS HIS FEAR THAT HIS ACTION IN AFFILIATING WITH SABA NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A DESIRE FOR A SUBORDINATE RELATIONSHIP WITH BUTHELEZI'S ZULUS.

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